

## Metam-Sodium Applications, Summer 2003

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**Date  
established**

July 3, 2003

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**Enclosure to**

ENF 03-26. This letter replaces ENF 02-32.

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**Distribution**

County agricultural commissioners

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**Referrals**

If you have any questions pertaining to this document, please contact your senior pesticide use specialist liaison.

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**About this  
enforcement  
letter**

The Enforcement Branch has made minor, nonsubstantive changes from last year's enforcement letter, "Metam-Sodium Applications, Summer 2002."

- Minor formatting change
  - Sprinkler has replaced chemigation in the section titled, "Recommended metam application permit conditions"
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**Introduction**

To help prevent incidents involving metam-sodium from occurring during extreme heat conditions, the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is recommending that county agricultural commissioners (CACs) conduct preapplication site inspections when they receive a notice of intent (NOI).

DPR would also like the CACs to remind permittees and applicators to pay special attention to the metam-sodium labeling and the technical information bulletin (TIB).

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## Metam-Sodium Applications, Summer 2003, Continued

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### **Recommended commissioner procedures**

DPR recommends the following:

- If certain weather conditions exist that are not in compliance with the metam-sodium label and TIB, the NOI shall be denied.
- If the air temperature is expected to exceed 100°F, the following shall also apply:
  1. Conduct a preapplication site inspection prior to the metam-sodium application.
  2. Preapplication site inspections should occur as close to the intended date of application as possible. Contact applicators to determine the exact application time to facilitate preapplication site inspections.
  3. Based on resources, CACs should give priority inspections to sensitive areas first, followed by other remaining sites, when possible.
  4. The preapplication site inspection shall ensure that the site has an irrigation system readily available with the capability to cover the entire application site. The acres applied per day by shank injection near sensitive areas should not exceed the capacity of the available water delivery system to apply a minimum of ¼ inch per hour of water concurrently to the entire surface applied on that day.
  5. The CAC should take and record soil moisture readings and soil temperature readings to three inches.

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## Metam-Sodium Applications, Summer 2003, Continued

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### **Recommended metam-sodium application permit conditions**

- All metam-sodium labeling and the TIB shall be followed.
  - This section provides metam-sodium application recommendations:
    1. Sprinkler or shank injection applications near sensitive sites should be conducted during daytime conditions. Applications near sensitive sites may begin as early as two hours before sunrise, in order to complete the application prior to the temperature or wind limitations being exceeded.
    2. Sprinkler or shank injection applications near sensitive sites shall receive an application of  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch of water as soon as possible, but no later than two hours after the passage of the shanks through each portion of the treated field. Sprinkler or shank injection applications near sensitive sites shall include an additional  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch of water on the day of the application, starting between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. The water application must be completed no later than 8 p.m. All applications of water shall be at a rate of  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch per hour or greater.
    3. If applications cannot be completed due to the high temperature or wind speed limitations, metam-sodium should not be applied until more favorable conditions exist.
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